



**Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel  
October 1, 2015  
Summary Meeting Minutes**

(NOTE: The meeting video is posted at [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).)

Meeting 30 of the Route 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) was held at the Virginia Transportation Research Council (formerly the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research) in Charlottesville, Virginia on October 1, 2015. Meeting information included:

- Meeting Agenda
- Presentation addressing agenda items

All material distributed at the meeting is available at [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org)

1. In attendance: Pete Borches, Chip Boyles, Morgan Butler, Brad Sheffield, Chris Engel, Karen Weiner, Henry Weinschenk. Facilitator: Philip Shucet.

Absent: Mark Graham, Satyendra Huja.

VDOT Technical Team members were also in attendance.

2. Public Feedback:

Nine comments were submitted via email through [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org) and four new posts were submitted on the Provide Input section of [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). A summary of comments is included in the meeting presentation which is posted on the project website [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). Lou Hatter noted there was one call to the project hotline about potholes.

3. Report on PDAP Feedback:

- Chip Boyles said there was a smaller turnout for the business assistance subcommittee meeting compared to the previous meeting. The group continues to work through ideas.
- Philip Shucet said a determination will be made concerning the Berkmar bridge design and whether or not it can be configured for a future four-lane section by the November 12 PDAP meeting.

- Rio GSI time lapse camera is not yet installed, but will be up and operational by the October 15 PDAP meeting.

#### 4. Open Discussion

- Brad Sheffield inquired about weekend signal timing. He said there's not be enough time for left turns from 29 South onto Rio. Philip Shucet said VDOT will look at it and report back at the October 15 PDAP meeting.
- Karen Weiner indicated the busiest time is 1 pm to 4 pm on Saturdays.
- Henry Weinschenk expressed disappointment that the nighttime Rio closures started so soon. Philip Shucet said the closure was noted in the 60 percent plans, yet it caught him off guard as well. The closures are allowed in the contract and will continue through May. Upcoming anticipated lane closures will be incorporated into all future project updates.
- Karen Weiner said 9 pm is too early to close the intersection during the holiday season. Morgan Butler agreed. Philip Shucet said the situation will be re-evaluated.
- Philip Shucet said the VDOT - Lane-Corman team developed a protocol for earlier identification of lane closures and traffic pattern changes.

5. Design-Build Submission Schedule: The schedule is included in the meeting presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

- Philip Shucet said Lane-Cormans' position is that the Rio GSI 100 percent plans show the enhancement to landscaping compared to the 60 percent plans and that it represents the final landscaping plan.
- Pedestrian and local lane lighting plan is expected October 29.
- Hardscape architectural plans (ie: stamped brick patterns) will be forthcoming. Dave Covington will provide a schedule at the October 15 PDAP meeting.
- Dave Covington indicated that median trees will be replaced in-kind according to the contract.
- Morgan Butler expressed concern about the level of landscaping in the plan and will examine the 100 percent plans compared to recommendations made by the SELC.

*Agenda item 10 was moved ahead of item 6*

10. Placemaking Update: Albemarle County's Lee Catlin said the county developed an online Google survey about Rio GSI placemaking. The survey was sent to e-mail addresses from the Places 29 advisory committees, business contact lists for Route 29 Solutions, and a homeowner's contact list for master planning. It's also on the county's Facebook and Twitter pages. Between 75 and 80 responses were received in one week. Thus far, respondents connect to the Rio name and favor directional quadrants as opposed to using names of businesses.

*Resumption of agenda*

6. Route 29 Solutions Project Updates: Dave Covington reviewed project updates. Updates are included in the presentation posted on [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org).

Bullets below reflect additional information and discussion other than that included in the presentation.

Philip Shucet described how contractors generally schedule and communicate construction work. Ideally, he said, traffic impact alerts provide a start and end date. Changes are being made to provide complete information in a timely manner.

- Route 29/250 Interchange:
  - Daytime lane closures were necessary to pour the new median. They generally lasted 9 am to noon. Contractor is permitted to have six daytime closures.
  - Due to soaking rains, a lane on the ramp was closed because the wetness may have destabilized the area and geotechnical engineers are on the scene. It is expected to reopen tonight.
- Rio GSI:
  - The right lanes from Rio westbound turning onto Route 29 northbound are closed for emergency pavement repair. The cold patch asphalt used for overnight water line relocations were deteriorating due to heavy rain. They're being replaced with hot mixed asphalt.
  - Large equipment for building the overpass will show up within the median soon.
- Berkmar: Archeological exploration Phase 3 will be done before Thanksgiving.
- Hillsdale Extension:
  - Chris Engel said the new ad date is June 2016 though the city is continuing to push the consultant. The schedule is depending somewhat on right of way. He said the delayed ad date should not change the completion date.
  - Philip Shucet said he would prefer a first quarter 2016 ad date.

7. Hillsdale - Greenbrier signal: Philip Shucet said the warrant analysis does not justify a signal at Greenbrier. VDOT will meet with the city. VDOT has agreed to install infrastructure for a possible future signal. If new information is presented that warrants a signal, the full signal will be included.

8. Pile installation, retaining wall, and abutment construction at Rio GSI:

- Dave Covington reviewed the process for constructing the retaining walls and abutments at the Rio GSI. The techniques are described and illustrated in the meeting presentation posted at [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org). He noted there will be 31 piles on each side of the bridge. The technique using soldier pile walls has been in

existence a long time, but is being applied differently for this project. This innovation speeds the construction process.

- Work begins October 12. Nearby businesses and residents living within a half-mile radius of the project are receiving notices that pile driving will begin.
- A new project manager for Lane Corman was introduced - Jason Tracy, a Lane employee who relocated from Charlotte.

#### 9. TODS construction signing

- Most qualifying business are participating.
- They need to officially apply by October 7, because signs need to be ordered. After this date, businesses may apply but will not qualify for the waived fees.
- Signs will be installed by the end of October.
- Full sign placement plan will be reviewed in detail at the October 15 PDAP meeting.
- Examples of TODS signs during the three phases of the program and a draft placement map are included in the presentation posted at [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org)

#### 11. New Business and Wrap Up:

- Philip Shucet asked panel members if they want to ride together October 15 to the Northwest Regional Operations center in Staunton. Vans can be arranged.

The next panel meeting is October 15, 2015 at Northwest Regional Operations center in Staunton.

The meeting was open to the public, streamed live, and is available on video at [route29solutions.org](http://route29solutions.org)